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2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
3 EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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5 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :

CR-00-196

6 -against-

United States Courthouse  
Brooklyn, New York

7 FRANK COPPA, ET AL,

8 Defendants.

9 : February 2, 2001 2000  
Ten o'clock a.m.

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11 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE I. LEO GLASSER  
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

13 APPEARANCES:

14 For the Plaintiff:

LORETTA E. LYNCH  
United States Attorney  
BY: ERIC CORNGOLD  
Assistant United States Attorney  
One Pierrepont Plaza  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

17 For the Defendants:

MICHAEL ROSEN, ESQ.  
For Defendant Garafola

18 J. BRIAN HANSBURY, ESQ.  
19 For Defendant Montevercchi

20 JOSEPH GIANNINI, ESQ.  
21 For Defendant Persico

22 ANDREW WEINSTEIN, ESQ.  
For Defendant Cioffoletti

23 JEFFREY LICHTMAN, ESQ.  
24 MIRANDA FRITZ, ESQ.  
For Defendant Lev

25 THOMAS ROTH, ESQ.  
For Defendant Ray

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S: (Continued.)

3

RICHARD W. BREWSTER, ESQ.  
For Defendant Lombardo

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5

DAVID SMITH, ESQ.  
For Defendant Basile

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7

JOSEPH BENFANTE, ESQ.  
For Defendant Temperino

8

9

Court Reporter:

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript  
produced by computer.

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THE CLERK: Criminal motions, USA versus Ernest  
Montevecchi, Daniel Persico, John Cioffoletti, Edward  
Garafola, Daniel Lev, Eugene Lombardo, Lawrence Ray and  
Abraham Salaman.

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Counsel, please state your appearances.

MR. ROSEN: Good morning, Your Honor, Michael Rosen  
for Mr. Garafola.

MR. BENFANTE: Joseph Benfante for Mr. Temperino.

1 MR. LICHTMAN: Jeffrey Lichtman and Miranda Fritz for  
2 Mr. Lev.

3 MR. WEINSTEIN: Andrew Weinstein for Mr. Cioffoletti  
4 appearing on behalf of Mr. LaRossa.

5 MR. BREWSTER: Richard Brewster on behalf of Eugene  
6 Lombardo.

7 MR. ROTH: Thomas Roth on behalf of Mr. Ray.

8 MR. HANSBURY: Brian Hansbury on behalf of  
9 Mr. Montevocchi.

10 MR. SMITH: David Smith on behalf of Rocco Basile. I  
11 would just like the record to be clear we are not officially  
12 retained for this case. I am appearing to inform Your Honor  
13 as to what will happen in Mr. Basile's other case, he has  
14 another indictment and in that case we've reached an  
15 agreement, he will be entering a plea of guilty next Wednesday  
16 in front of Judge Pollak. So, I am appearing here to inform  
17 Your Honor that is going to happen in the other case, it will  
18 be covering this case and I just want Your Honor to be aware  
19 of that.

20 THE COURT: Well, is Mr. Basile contemplate retaining  
21 you for this case?

22 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, he has, although until the  
23 plea is actually entered into we have not been formally  
24 retained for this case. I believe once the plea has been  
25 entered, we'll be retained for this case and the other as

1 well. We are counsel of record for the other case.

2 THE COURT: Does Mr. Basile contemplate appearing pro  
3 se in the interim?

4 MR. SMITH: I suppose he could, Your Honor, he is  
5 here today.

6 THE COURT: Would you appear temporarily for  
7 Mr. Basile?

8 MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor, I will appear for the  
9 purposes of this proceeding today in this matter.

10 THE COURT: Do we have any other appearances that  
11 have to be noted?

12 MR. CORNGOLD: Eric Corngold for the government,  
13 Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. I take it everybody is  
15 ready --

16 MR. GIANNINI: Joseph Giannini for Daniel Persico,  
17 Jr.

18 THE COURT: Do we have everybody now?

19 THE CLERK: Larry Berman had called, he will not be  
20 present today but he had joined in the motions.

21 THE COURT: What I think would be a sensible way of  
22 proceeding would be to deal with the motions which raise  
23 discrete issues, for example, with respect to the money  
24 laundering counts. I think I'm correct in saying that the  
25 motions relating to the money laundering counts were filed by

1 Mr. Cioffoletti, Mr. Lev and Mr. Montevercchi. Why don't we  
2 deal with those counts and then we can proceed to the others  
3 so we don't have everybody standing around with respect to  
4 motions that they have no interest in or haven't made.

5 So, why don't we proceed in that fashion, why don't  
6 I hear the money laundering counts, the motions filed by  
7 Mr. Cioffoletti, Mr. Lev and Mr. Montevercchi. I'll hear  
8 the movants, I'll hear the government in response with respect  
9 to those and then we'll move on to the next one.

10 MR. ROSEN: Could I make a personal request, Your  
11 Honor, I don't mean to interfere with my colleagues. I have a  
12 medical situation uptown at around 11:30, 12:00, so if I could  
13 be taken next in order on Mr. Garafola's motions, I would  
14 personally appreciate it.

15 THE COURT: Well, as I understand it, Mr. Garafola's  
16 motions are simply a motion to sever.

17 MR. ROSEN: Correct.

18 THE COURT: And you want a suppression?

19 MR. ROSEN: Yes, sir, so I'll be prepared to argue  
20 those.

21 THE COURT: Well, there are a couple of severance  
22 motions, Mr. Lev, Mr. Nagel and Mr. Ray made severance  
23 motions. We can do those first and then we can move to the  
24 money laundering.

25 MR. ROSEN: Well, I appreciate that.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. CORNGOLD: Judge, could I ask if I could sort of  
3 move closer towards the center and use the podium.

4 THE COURT: Why don't we hear the severance motions  
5 of Mr. Lev, Mr. Garafola, Mr. Nagel and Mr. Ray.

6 MR. BENFANTE: Your Honor, the other counsel will  
7 stand back?

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 Mr. Rosen, do you want to start?

10 MR. ROSEN: Yes, I'd like to, Your Honor, please and  
11 most respectfully, I've put in papers suggesting that the law  
12 is very clear in this case of Mr. Garafola that he should be  
13 considered in Your Honor's sound discretion for getting a  
14 severance but it starts with the fact that he's not even  
15 properly joined, most respectfully, under Rule 8 in that as I  
16 understand Rule 8, that you have to be indicted, the counts  
17 that you're in have to have some connection or relationship,  
18 as the rule says, if they are alleged to have participated in  
19 the same series of acts or transactions constituting offenses  
20 and here if Your Honor looks and you see the chart that we  
21 prepared of the indictment, the government prepared of the  
22 indictment, Mr. Garafola is in the last two counts, an  
23 extortion count and a conspiracy to extort, that has no  
24 relationship, in my humble opinion, to the core, the essence  
25 of this indictment which is a stock fraud case which basically

1 alleges that there were entrepreneurs, that there were  
2 brokers, that there were nominees all with the central core  
3 purpose in an enterprise which Mr. Garafola is not named in  
4 to rig the price of four companies, the stock of those  
5 companies, to put this money offshore and then to reap the  
6 benefits and there's even some allegation that certain  
7 nefarious people are enlisted to offer protection to this  
8 enterprise and Mr. Garafola is not even named in that. He's  
9 on the back end in Counts Nineteen and Twenty I believe in  
10 some discrete and different allegation.

11           And just under Rule 8 there is no connection in fact  
12 or in law, certainly not in the indictment, Judge Glasser,  
13 that links this conduct of Mr. Garafola to the securities  
14 fraud. He's not named as having any interest in the  
15 companies, he's not named as a nominee or that he's going to  
16 get a piece of the pie. Everyone else -- I'm not saying the  
17 allegations are true but they did not make any such  
18 allegations against Mr. Garafola. He's off there, you know,  
19 in the back discretely and I referred, of course, in my papers  
20 to Your Honor's decision in Upton and to Judge Block's  
21 decision in Montgomery that sets forth the eight criteria.

22           I'm not just moving, Judge Glasser, because there  
23 will be a disparity of proof, there clearly will be where  
24 maybe Mr. Garafola's trial could last three days or five days  
25 or one week and doesn't need, notwithstanding Mr. Corngold's

1 stretch, all this talk about securities fraud and offshore  
2 accounts and brokers and, my goodness, this is -- and I hate  
3 to say this but this is a garden variety stock fraud with a  
4 little bit of alleged organized crime but Mr. Garafola is not  
5 named in that part of the indictment that says people from  
6 organized crime, these buzz words, were used to protect this  
7 enterprise. He's not even named in that and he's not even  
8 named in the enterprise, so I think even under Rule 8 and I  
9 think that gets me somewhere, under Zafiro because Zafiro  
10 assumes that you're properly joined under Rule 8 and I say  
11 Counts -- what is it, Nineteen and Twenty.

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. ROSEN: Sir, are not properly joined certainly as  
14 to Mr. Garafola and the cases, the two cases that the  
15 government cites in its brief, I think it is the Scarpa case  
16 and I think this Court is pretty familiar with most of these  
17 citations, you're talking about somebody that's an integral  
18 part of the central core of the crime. Here Mr. Garafola has  
19 no connection in this indictment with what this case is about  
20 and that's stock fraud.

21 Judge, what that brings me to and I guess there's  
22 always a first even after 36 years, I did not receive the  
23 motions made by Mr. Roth, my co-counsel, who represents  
24 Mr. Ray, I didn't know until last week or the week before that  
25 Mr. Ray has made a motion for also a severance claiming that



1 he is a government informant or was a government informant and  
2 that my client allegedly threatened his life. I learned that  
3 when I read Mr. Corngold's answer to the motions and I  
4 wondered, well, what's going on here. I called Mr. Roth, he  
5 was very gracious and he faxed me and sent me his motion  
6 papers. They were filed I think in November, I got them last  
7 week. Clearly, Your Honor, if you want to talk about trial  
8 rights or prejudice under trial rights, clearly if Mr. Ray and  
9 Mr. Garafola are left in this case, they just can't go to  
10 trial together.

11           It looks like from Mr. Roth's moving memorandum that  
12 Mr. Ray contemplates taking the stand, defending himself and  
13 testifying that Mr. Garafola put a contract out on him which  
14 is his position, certainly nothing we acknowledge or agree  
15 with but I didn't brief that extensively because I just didn't  
16 know about it and I'm not blaming anybody but that's just the  
17 way it happened. I don't know if there is a policy of not  
18 advising co-counsel whose client you've accused of having put  
19 out a contract, maybe you don't send him the papers but I  
20 didn't get the papers. Again, I'm not blaming Mr. Roth, he's  
21 been very cooperative with me since I learned it. At least  
22 now I can stand before this Court and say clearly there should  
23 be a consideration, the Court should exercise its discretion  
24 and sever Mr. Garafola if there's going to be any proof at a  
25 trial that Mr. Garafola allegedly put out a contract, as

1 Mr. Ray so succinctly puts it in his moving affidavit.

2 So, I think, Judge, you have the papers and we've  
3 taken a lot of time in graphically showing where Mr. Garafola  
4 is and isn't and you probably hear this all the time, I'm sure  
5 you do, everybody wants a severance. Well, I understand that  
6 but it's not a severance in terms of, well, it's easier to get  
7 acquitted, it is a severance because he doesn't belong in a  
8 securities fraud indictment sitting maybe for a couple of  
9 months when there's vast testimony about money laundering  
10 which he's not charged with, securities fraud which he's not  
11 charged with, RICO which he's not charged with, etc. You've  
12 heard it before but this is maybe one of the first times that  
13 I really feel candid about saying this to this Court, he just  
14 doesn't belong in here under either Rule 8 or Rule 14.

15 And just on the back part of the motions that I made,  
16 the motion for suppression, you've read the papers on that. I  
17 thought Your Honor signed an order, I may be mistaken, I don't  
18 think so. I thought Your Honor did sign an order, that's what  
19 I just want to call to the Court's attention, and I have it,  
20 perhaps it got lost in the shuffle, Your Honor, but my belief  
21 is that Your Honor signed an order on November 28, 2000, a  
22 scheduling order setting down a suppression hearing and I  
23 thought, not that I'm asking for it today for several reasons  
24 but I thought I had gotten to the initial stage where we were  
25 going to have a hearing.

1 I think that if Your Honor has some trepidation about  
2 that, I can articulate again why I think under this unusual  
3 circumstance we should have a hearing even though it is a  
4 consensual tape and I've never done that before, move to  
5 suppress a consensual tape but I've just learned, again, maybe  
6 I'm just not in the loop as I used to be, Judge Glasser, but I  
7 just learned that there are extensive electronic surveillance  
8 of Mr. Garafola that I haven't been afforded and I'm going to  
9 talk to Mr. Corngold about that, I'm not going to waste  
10 everybody's time but, again, it may be that may have been the  
11 source of how come this agent and this undercover happened to  
12 show up where Mr. Garafola was one morning.

13 But I think the question of severance, Judge, is  
14 paramount in my mind at this moment and I would ask Your Honor  
15 if you have any questions about our application for the  
16 severance, I think in my brief career this is the best factual  
17 and legal basis I've seen for a severance in a case such as  
18 this. Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Corngold, do you want to respond when  
20 all the severance motions are made or do you want to respond  
21 to each as they're made?

22 MR. CORNGOLD: Let me respond, I think it actually  
23 makes sense to respond particularly to Mr. Garafola's  
24 severance motion, though I do think that the issues that the  
25 other defendants raise touch on that.

1           If the Court will indulge me, let me just take a  
2 minute or two to describe how the U.S. Bridge of New York  
3 fraud evidence and money laundering evidence fits together and  
4 fits in with Mr. Garafola, the charges against Mr. Garafola.  
5 The U.S. Bridge of New York was one of the four say central  
6 securities manipulation, securities fraud that are charged in  
7 this indictment that this enterprise is alleged to have  
8 manipulated and then laundered the proceeds of. The U.S.  
9 Bridge of New York is owned by Mr. Polito who the indictment  
10 alleges is a Gambino associate and the government would prove  
11 that he's closely connected to Mr. Garafola who is a Gambino  
12 soldier. Mr. Polito owns the company, as the indictment  
13 alleges; Mr. Lombardo, another defendant in the case who's  
14 alleged to be a Bonanno associate, brought Mr. Ray in to the  
15 deal, to the conspiracy. The idea was that to facilitate the  
16 U.S. Bridge of New York manipulation, to make it a stock that  
17 could be sold and could be manipulated, there was the idea  
18 that it would be useful to have bonding. U.S. Bridge of New  
19 York was a construction company and the bonding would permit  
20 -- would arguably permit U.S. Bridge of New York to bid on  
21 larger contracts. Mr. Lombardo, the alleged Bonanno  
22 associate, brought Mr. Ray in to be bribed, basically to get  
23 \$100,000 to pay a bribe to achieve the bonding. Mr. Polito  
24 pays the bribe, the U.S. Bridge of New York IPO happens, the  
25 manipulation happens but the bonding doesn't occur. So, what

1 happens is, and this is where Mr. Garafola comes into the  
2 picture, Mr. Garafola on behalf of Mr. Polito begins to seek  
3 to extort Mr. Ray, I mean the White Rock Partners, seeks to  
4 get the money back that Mr. Polito spent and there will be  
5 evidence about the extortion, that's the last two counts  
6 in the indictment, and the events sort of culminate in  
7 this meeting at a diner where Mr. Garafola is there and  
8 Mr. Garafola's claim to this money, his attempt to extort this  
9 money is essentially arbitrated, if you will, by other  
10 organized crime figures. Mr. Lombardo is there, the Bonanno  
11 associate; Mr. Montevicchi who is alleged to be a Genovese  
12 soldier is there representing the White Rock Partners. And  
13 the extortion is essentially arbitrated there.

14 Now, why then is this extortion relevant and why is  
15 it -- why should it be part of the entire case? Well, it goes  
16 to the heart of the U.S. Bridge of New York securities fraud.  
17 In order to prove the extortion, we're going to have to show  
18 the bribe, the purpose of the bribe, what Mr. Garafola's claim  
19 to the money is and how that works, so that's all going to be  
20 there. Plus, and this is really maybe the more important  
21 point, the indictment as a whole alleges that there's this  
22 illegal enterprise and in order for this illegal enterprise to  
23 operate, they need the organized crime people who are alleged  
24 in the indictment to protect, to arbitrate disputes, to  
25 resolve problems because they can't go to the SEC when they've

1 got problems, they can't go to the FBI when they've got  
2 problems. So, the indictment alleges a series of times when  
3 the White Rock Partners use their organized crime connections,  
4 Mr. Coppa, Mr. Montevercchi, Mr. Persico, Mr. Lombardo, to  
5 protect them, to arbitrate disputes, to show their power as  
6 opposed to the power from the other side.

7       Here Mr. Garafola, who is, as I said, alleged to be a  
8 Gambino soldier and that's why this event, this extortion and  
9 the resolution of the extortion is at the center of the kind  
10 of conduct that goes on in this indictment, it is one of the  
11 key moments that these -- that the enterprise needed to use  
12 their organized crime associates to resolve the dispute. So,  
13 that's what it is doing there, that's why it meets the  
14 requirements of Rule 8. It's completely tied in to this U.S.  
15 Bridge of New York manipulation and that's why, respectfully,  
16 we don't believe it makes sense to sever the extortion out.

17       MR. ROSEN: Can I just say a few words in response?  
18 If this alleged extortion is so vital to the U.S. Bridge  
19 counts, why isn't Mr. Garafola in the U.S. Bridge securities  
20 frauds, conspiracy to commit securities frauds, money  
21 laundering of U.S. Bridge funds if it is so vital. It is not  
22 vital. The IPO was out already. I mean, in other words, if  
23 Mr. Garafola went out and stole a car to get to this meeting,  
24 is that part of the conspiracy. If he's vital, he would be in  
25 the enterprise, he would be in the RICO.

1           This is a discrete and separate situation, Judge  
2   Glasser, that will cause Mr. Garafola to sit there for weeks,  
3   months of securities money laundering transactions having  
4   nothing, nothing to do with him and, most respectfully, and  
5   I'm not one to point fingers and I'm not, the indictment does  
6   describe, it does allege A, B and C and D are alleged  
7   organized crime figures enlisted to protect and promote this  
8   fraud. Mr. Garafola is not named. Mr. Corngold left out a  
9   name. He mentioned a bunch of names, you notice he did not  
10   name Mr. Garafola as being someone allegedly brought in to the  
11   enterprise for the muscle, no. So, the indictment doesn't  
12   even put him into this and I think that the prejudice is so  
13   severe and so overwhelming in a case such as this that we meet  
14   all the criteria for the Court to exercise its discretion and  
15   sever Mr. Garafola.

16           MR. CORNGOLD: Judge, I didn't talk about the Ray  
17   aspect of the motions, I don't know if the Court wants me to  
18   now or not.

19           THE COURT: I'll hear Mr. Roth first. I would note,  
20   however, that in paragraph ten of the indictment which is  
21   captioned The Enterprise Mr. Garafola is not mentioned as one  
22   of the --

23           MR. CORNGOLD: That's correct and Mr. Rosen is  
24   correct that the government doesn't allege that Mr. Garafola  
25   is one of the alleged organized crime people who are

1 protecting the enterprise. The indictment alleges essentially  
2 that Mr. Garafola was acting on behalf of Mr. Polito, the  
3 owner of U.S. Bridge of New York, one of the manipulated  
4 stocks and that that's the role that he played. So there's no  
5 dispute that Mr. Garafola -- Mr. Garafola clearly is not  
6 alleged to be a member of the RICO enterprise, he's not in the  
7 substantive or the RICO conspiracy charge but the Court is  
8 familiar with the numerous cases, some of which we cited, that  
9 hold that you don't have to be a charged RICO defendant to be  
10 properly joined or to be properly tried under Rule 14 and I  
11 think that the Scarpa case is a good example of that.

12 MR. ROSEN: Okay -- I don't want to say anymore.

13 THE COURT: Before we leave this I was curious about  
14 your footnote ten which refers to the Casamento case on page  
15 36 of your memorandum.

16 MR. CORNGOLD: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Is there anything that has occurred since  
18 you prepared this memorandum which would make that footnote of  
19 more than passing relevance at this stage so far as the  
20 severance motion is concerned?

21 MR. CORNGOLD: I think I described another point in  
22 the memorandum, the ongoing plea negotiations. I can  
23 represent to the Court that the government has -- three  
24 defendants have pleaded guilty, one is scheduled to plead  
25 guilty next week. The government has agreements in principle



1 with six other defendants and we're working out the details of  
2 the plea agreement. We anticipate though, of course,  
3 defendants -- I mean the negotiations may not go exactly the  
4 way that the government anticipates but it's my firm  
5 anticipation that by the end of February there will be between  
6 six and nine defendants who are left in the indictment and  
7 because of that that obviously meets the Casamento numbers but  
8 I can't say today that if we're ten or under.

9 THE COURT: What effect would all that have upon an  
10 informed determination of these motions to sever?

11 MR. CORNGOLD: Well --

12 THE COURT: The question, Mr. Corngold, is if these  
13 prospective developments would have more than passing  
14 relevance to this severance motion, then it might be prudent  
15 for the Court to defer making a determination with respect to  
16 those severance motions.

17 MR. CORNGOLD: That's what I was going to propose,  
18 Your Honor. The Court has been very indulgent with all the  
19 parties in this case. What I believe is -- I will represent  
20 that by the end of February, beginning of March the government  
21 will have finished its plea negotiations and what I would  
22 propose is a time in mid-March, early to mid-March by which  
23 the Court could rule on the severance motions as a whole and  
24 also set a trial date. I would suggest though I do believe  
25 that and we have to get to the Shvarts issue that may have

1 something to do with the scheduling.

2 THE COURT: Well, my concern is also I think it is  
3 Section 3161, maybe subdivision (j), somewhere around that, it  
4 is part of the Speedy Trial Act which I think imposes some  
5 limitation upon the determination of motions and I think it  
6 might be that withholding a determination until some time in  
7 mid-March may collide with, I think it is (j).

8 MR. CORNGOLD: Yes.

9 THE COURT: The thought just occurs to me as I'm  
10 discussing this with you, I may be wrong about the letter.

11 MR. CORNGOLD: I believe, Your Honor, that the  
12 provision provides 30 days after the motion is completely  
13 briefed and argued though not -- it's really been a long time  
14 since I've looked at it, but not as a requirement but as a  
15 presumption.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. CORNGOLD: And I think that given the reasons  
18 that I've described it makes sense under the (h)(8) provision  
19 for the Court to -- I'm bad with the letters.

20 THE COURT: It is (h)(8)(A) I think but I'm just  
21 raising that because I was curious about that footnote, it may  
22 be that all of this would be academic, I may be able to decide  
23 it without even considering Casamento.

24 Insofar as the severance motion -- the suppression  
25 motion, it may be that I issued that order, Mr. Rosen, I

1 generally do as a matter of course with respect to suppression  
2 motions but I will tell you now that I will deny it primarily  
3 on the basis of United States versus Gilette and also because  
4 I think the bases upon which you make that motion are so  
5 purely speculative that I don't think a suppression hearing is  
6 warranted. I'll deny that motion.

7 MR. ROSEN: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Ray, insofar as your severance motion  
9 is concerned, that's been submitted, I'll deal with that.

10 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, David Smith on behalf of  
11 Rocco Basile. Your Honor, given the posture that Mr. Basile  
12 is in, as I explained to Your Honor before, I would ask that  
13 we be excused. These matters are no longer relevant to him  
14 assuming he is pleading guilty on Wednesday.

15 THE COURT: I think that's correct.

16 MR. CORNGOLD: Yes, I agree.

17 THE COURT: By all means.

18 Mr. Roth.

19 MR. ROTH: Thank you. Your Honor, in terms of the  
20 severance motion, I adopt many of the arguments that Mr. Rosen  
21 has made. I think if there are two defendants in this case  
22 that most warrant a severance, they are undoubtedly the two  
23 defendants that are not charged in the RICO count. There are  
24 19 defendants here, 17 charged with RICO, the only two that  
25 are not are Mr. Rosen's client and my client, Mr. Ray. And I

1 think Mr. Rosen is also correct that my client and Mr. Rosen's  
2 client warrant a severance from one another because of the  
3 unique circumstances that these defendants find themselves.

4 Your Honor, you can tell from my papers that my  
5 client is uniquely situated here. He not only cooperated with  
6 the FBI for a very extensive period of time on all sorts of  
7 matters but also cooperated with the FBI in this particular  
8 case against at least one defendant who will be sitting in the  
9 courtroom with him, Mr. Garafola. As a matter of fact, at one  
10 point and I think it was in 1996 the government engineered a  
11 meeting between my client and Mr. Garafola that was at the  
12 behest of the FBI, it was covered by the FBI, it wasn't  
13 recorded apparently but that meeting exists.

14 Now, the only reason that my client cooperated at all  
15 was because at some point in 1996 the FBI came to my client  
16 and made certain allegations about threats that were being  
17 made on his life, so at that point he was in a very, very  
18 difficult position and more out of self-preservation than  
19 anything else he decided to cooperate with the FBI and did so  
20 including in this case.

21 And we've also interposed a public authority defense  
22 here and I've served a notice on the government of that. Your  
23 Honor, my concern with respect to Mr. Ray outside of the  
24 obvious, his unique circumstances, is the fact that even if  
25 all of the pleas that Mr. Corngold conjures here, even if they

1 all occur, this is going to be a very, very lengthy trial,  
2 literally months I would imagine because we're talking about  
3 not only a RICO conspiracy and an enterprise but we're talking  
4 about four or five or six different conspiracies, we're  
5 talking about four different securities conspiracies, an  
6 extortion conspiracy, a money laundering conspiracy and, quite  
7 frankly, Mr. Ray in essence is involved in none of them. I  
8 know he's alleged to be part of the U.S. Bridge conspiracy but  
9 the U.S. Bridge conspiracy at its core is a stock manipulation  
10 scheme. My client had nothing to do with stock manipulation,  
11 he had nothing to do with U.S. Bridge. He was sought out by  
12 U.S. Bridge as an intermediary to go to a bonding company to  
13 get a bond and the allegation is, that he was given money and  
14 that my client got money and in turn was supposed to bribe  
15 somebody in the bonding company. That is very, very  
16 attenuated from that securities fraud scheme that he's charged  
17 with. Just like the extortion conspiracy that Mr. Garafola is  
18 involved in, in my view, is very, very, very attenuated.

19 My concern is that we're going to be sitting here  
20 and, by the way, about a month and a half ago I called  
21 Mr. Corngold and asked him the same question that Your Honor  
22 did, how many defendants do we have left in this thing, I'm  
23 making a severance motion, how is this sorting out and he told  
24 me, well, I think a month and a half ago, we've got three  
25 pleas. Well, a month and a half later we have three pleas. I

1 know he's very optimistic about all of this happening but  
2 there's a good possibility I believe, he's been trying to get  
3 these pleas for ten months, this has been going on since March  
4 of the year 2000 and up to this point in ten months he's come  
5 up with three pleas. This may well be a case where we end up  
6 with 14 or 15 defendants in this case and we might have a four  
7 month trial and the evidence against Mr. Ray, if Your Honor  
8 severed Mr. Ray, could be introduced in a three or four day  
9 period. He is involved in one transaction, a series of about  
10 two, maybe three at the most meetings that all occurred in  
11 1995. There are a number of witnesses that the government  
12 would put on, it could all be done in two or three, maybe four  
13 or five days at the most. I would like not to be in a  
14 situation where we're sitting here month after month after  
15 month where his name is not mentioned and that's going to  
16 happen because he's not involved in any of these sophisticated  
17 manipulation schemes, he's not involved in any money  
18 laundering schemes, any offshore accounts or anything. He's  
19 involved in a very finite, very discrete transaction which  
20 could be handled with a minimum number of witnesses and the  
21 entire picture could be developed within a week.

22 So, for that reason, Your Honor, even if there are  
23 pleas in the case, I believe he should be severed plus we have  
24 the public authority defense which, quite frankly, involves my  
25 client and no one else. We're going to be off on a frolic of

1 our own in this case, Your Honor, if Your Honor permits the  
2 evidence which is going to require me to call a number of the  
3 FBI agents as hostile witnesses who supervised my client and  
4 who made certain promises and guarantees to him. That's  
5 something that has nothing to do with anybody else in this  
6 courtroom. And, by the way, Your Honor, in order for us to  
7 develop his defense of public authority, we're going to have  
8 to develop why he became an informant in the first place and  
9 that, unfortunately, is going to reflect very negatively on  
10 Mr. Rosen's client, I think it is unavoidable and I think  
11 it's, you know, I'm not here preaching on Mr. Rosen's client's  
12 behalf, Mr. Rosen can do that better than I, but it does  
13 impact on his client in a very, very negative way and I don't  
14 see how the two of them could possibly be tried together  
15 provided Your Honor permits the public authority defense which  
16 I think, quite frankly, Your Honor, is inevitable here.

17 MR. CORNGOLD: See, I've had many conversations with  
18 Mr. Roth about this public authority defense and I still have  
19 to say, respectfully, that I just don't see, I don't see how  
20 it can stand. The conduct that Mr. Ray is alleged to have  
21 engaged in in this indictment is in 1995. At best what  
22 Mr. Roth has is that some time after all that conduct was done  
23 in 1996 Mr. Ray got hearsay information that there may be a  
24 contract out about him by Mr. Garafola and as a result, he  
25 decided to cooperate. There's no -- I guess I just don't see

1 how his decision to cooperate in '96 or his attempts to  
2 cooperate or his alleged attempts to cooperate in 1996 can  
3 somehow retroactively affect whether he did the conduct in '95  
4 or not. So, with all respect, as I said, the government will  
5 move to preclude this public authority defense and I truly  
6 don't see how it can possibly be relevant.

7           So, what the unique circumstances are here, even if  
8 somehow Mr. -- this hearsay information that there's a threat  
9 one year after the fact on Mr. Ray's life somehow came in, as  
10 far as I can see, it would be admissible evidence against  
11 both -- against Mr. Garafola, to go back to Mr. Garafola's  
12 severance motion, if Mr. Garafola is making threats a year  
13 later because of a deal gone bad because of relating to the  
14 extortion, it is relevant evidence. So, if it's admissible,  
15 it is relevant both for the case against Mr. Garafola and the  
16 case against Mr. Ray. Zafiro makes clear that the idea of a  
17 severance because evidence is going to be introduced is only  
18 applicable if the evidence is going to be introduced against  
19 one defendant that's inadmissible against another defendant.  
20 Neither Mr. Garafola nor Mr. Ray have made any argument that  
21 this evidence would be admissible for one case but not  
22 admissible for the other case but, frankly, I don't see how  
23 that evidence could ever come in to begin with. So, I just  
24 don't see how this after the fact cooperation is relevant to  
25 the case. I don't see how this threat evidence is relevant



1 only for one defendant and not for another defendant. If it  
2 is somehow relevant or his attempts to cooperate, it is really  
3 a garden variety situation which happens all the time where  
4 defendants seek to cooperate after the fact, maybe make  
5 proffer statements and then for whatever reason decide not to  
6 cooperate and go to trial. There's nothing unusual about that  
7 here.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Roth, if what I'm hearing from  
9 Mr. Corngold is correct that the public authority basis or  
10 defense basis is predicated upon conduct which comes after the  
11 conduct which is alleged in this indictment, then how would  
12 that be at all relevant if it were offered and if a motion in  
13 limine were to be made, I'm not deciding it now, it hasn't  
14 been made, but for purposes of your argument, what would the  
15 relevance of that evidence be?

16 MR. ROTH: Well, Judge, let me just add a few facts  
17 which I think are relevant and which I alluded to in my papers  
18 but I neglected to add orally. My client did not start  
19 cooperating until 1996. After he did cooperate he was fully  
20 debriefed about everything that happened in 1995 by the FBI on  
21 numerous occasions.

22 THE COURT: This was in 1996?

23 MR. ROTH: In 1996. He was told by the FBI that if  
24 he continued to cooperate and his cooperation was extensive  
25 after 1996 and did include matters within this indictment, he

1 was told that he would not only not be prosecuted, he wouldn't  
2 have to testify. That promise I would suggest by the FBI is  
3 highly relevant on a public authority defense and he  
4 cooperated with the express promise by the FBI that if he did  
5 so and, in fact, was under the impression that he was risking  
6 his life while he was doing it, he wouldn't be prosecuted on  
7 this case. The FBI and the United States Attorney's Office  
8 then reneged on that promise and, therefore, he was indicted I  
9 guess in 2000 and he finds himself here today.

10 His cooperation was very extensive in this case.  
11 Mr. Corngold tries to create the impression that by the time  
12 he cooperated this case was over. That's not true. He met  
13 with Mr. Garafola in this case surveilled by the FBI in this  
14 case. He went to Russia on behalf of the FBI in this case to  
15 bring Mr. Felix Sater, an unindicted co-conspirator and  
16 cooperator with the government, an individual who is going to  
17 testify, he went to Russia at the behest of the FBI to bring  
18 him back to the United States. Now, the FBI has conveniently  
19 lost all records. I've requested in discovery pursuant to  
20 Rule 16 all records of his cooperation, 302s. They don't have  
21 anything but his cooperation did exist, we can prove it  
22 independently and he was promised a walk on this case which he  
23 did not get.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Roth, I'm just thinking aloud, if  
25 what you say is correct, is there some basis for a motion by

1 you to dismiss the indictment against Mr. Ray by way of  
2 enforcing a promise which you believe you can establish or by  
3 way of enforcing a promise that he would not be called as a  
4 witness?

5 MR. ROTH: I mean I already know what the  
6 government's answer is, Your Honor; their response is he  
7 didn't tell them the truth, therefore, he violated the  
8 agreement, therefore, he was prosecuted.

9 THE COURT: Well, I don't know what the government's  
10 answer is, all I know is what I'm hearing hear from you,  
11 Mr. Roth, but I have a recollection going back nearly twenty  
12 years, it was the first major criminal case that I had, it was  
13 the Cunningham case, president of the union and two  
14 co-defendants and as I recall it, there was a gentleman whose  
15 name I can't remember who was promised by the government that  
16 in the event he provided information, he would not be called  
17 as a witness and then was subpoenaed and a motion was made to  
18 quash the subpoena which was argued rather vigorously and I  
19 granted that motion having found that there was such a promise  
20 which causes me to think that if everything you say is true  
21 and there was some agreement, maybe you have some remedy with  
22 respect to that.

23 MR. ROTH: Judge, I will concede --

24 THE COURT: It might be worth testing.

25 MR. ROTH: I will concede two things, Your Honor;

1 number one, that agreement was obviously not in writing or I'd  
2 be in a position --

3 THE COURT: It is not a statute of frauds problem.

4 MR. ROTH: And number two, the United States  
5 Attorney's Office clearly at the time it was made was not a  
6 party to that promise. So, I hear what Your Honor is saying  
7 and perhaps I'll supplement my pretrial motions if Your Honor  
8 would permit.

9 THE COURT: What you're saying, Mr. Roth, reflects  
10 rather seriously and badly upon a government agency, I mean I  
11 hear this very frequently from defense counsel that the  
12 government is acting in a rather unlawful, venal, dishonest  
13 corrupt way, that argument is almost standard in many cases  
14 which I hear by defense counsel and if there is some merit to  
15 that, then perhaps the Court ought to be given an opportunity  
16 to determine whether there is or isn't some merit to that.  
17 But, in any event, if there's nothing else that you want to  
18 add, I'll permit Mr. Corngold.

19 MR. CORNGOLD: If I could just say three things about  
20 what Mr. Roth said. First, the converse of what the Court is  
21 saying which I think is clear is that even if there is a  
22 motion to be made to compel the enforcement of a contract or  
23 having to do with the government's misbehavior here, that's  
24 just not jury evidence, that's not a jury question, it is a  
25 court question and it goes -- it doesn't go at all to the

1 issue of guilt or innocence in this case.

2 THE COURT: Well, it's not a question of guilt or  
3 innocence, we're dealing with a severance motion.

4 MR. CORNGOLD: That's correct though it is also tied  
5 in to the discovery motion and it is relevant to the severance  
6 motion because the premise of the motion or part of the  
7 premise of the motion is there's going to be all of this ugly  
8 evidence introduced that only relates to Mr. Ray that arguably  
9 is damaging to Mr. Garafola and it's our position simply that  
10 this evidence is just not admissible evidence in a trial,  
11 either a joint trial or a severed trial. I just want to say  
12 two other things, I think we've said in the papers but just to  
13 make it clear, it is simply not true that the government sent  
14 Mr. Ray to Russia to bring Mr. Sater back and it is simply not  
15 true that the government conveniently lost all the records.  
16 The government has disclosed to Mr. Roth all the relevant 302s  
17 that have to do with debriefings that occurred in this '96  
18 period about these matters and it's just important I think for  
19 the government to say that those two statements are just not  
20 true.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

22 MR. ROTH: Thank you, Judge, no, nothing.

23 THE COURT: That motion is submitted. I think that's  
24 the only motion you made.

25 MR. ROTH: No, that's not true, Your Honor, I have a